**To:** Mylott, Richard[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]

From: Morning Consult

**Sent:** Sun 9/11/2016 6:01:11 PM

Subject: Morning Consult Energy: Week in Review & What's Ahead

By Asha Glover

### Week In Review

#### **Energy Conference Committee Has Long Road Ahead**

Conferees from both chambers met to resolve differences between their energy bills. Members heard opening statements, but no bill text or amendments were considered.

The meeting showed the wide-ranging energy bill could have a difficult time in the conference committee to reconcile differences between the House and Senate versions of the legislation. Key issues some members want to see resolved include investment in energy infrastructure and measures to address the California drought and wildfire management. Republicans also tried to convince Democrats to compromise instead of trying to work out a new deal for the bill if they end up being the majority in the next Congress. Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) told Democrats that it was a bipartisan effort to get both the House and Senate to pass the energy legislation, and that Democrats need to work with the other side of the aisle to get something to the president's desk before the end of the year.

Industry and environmental advocates <u>don't expect</u> lawmakers to come to an agreement on their energy bills until after the November elections, in part because there isn't enough time to negotiate certain issues before lawmakers leave Washington again.

#### Waterways Bill Moves Forward

The Senate also began working on the Water Resources Development Act - a waterways bill that includes funding for 25 Army Corps of Engineers projects and would allocate \$220 million for water infrastructure updates to help alleviate the lead water crisis in Flint, Mich., and other cities. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) filed for cloture on the measure on Thursday and Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) asked senators to file amendments by noon on Friday.

Obama Administration Steps Into Dakota Access Pipeline Fight

The Obama administration on Friday blocked the construction of the Dakota Access pipeline, at least temporarily, after a court had ruled that its construction was legal. The Army Corps of Engineers will not authorize the pipeline's construction on federal land bordering or under Lake Oahe, "until it can determine whether it will need to reconsider" earlier steps it took to authorize the pipeline, the Department of Justice, Department of the Army, and Department of the Interior announced in a joint statement.

The move walked back a decision by U.S. District Judge James Boasberg to

The departments said the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and other tribal nations raised concerns about the Dakota Access pipeline and pipeline-related decision making, and the Army Corps of Engineers needs to determine if it needs to reconsider any previous decisions it made concerning the Lake Oahe site under the National Environmental Policy Act or any other federal laws. The departments also asked the pipeline company to voluntarily pause construction within 20 miles east or west of Lake Oahe.

## What's Ahead

Both the House and Senate will be in session.

The House Science Committee will hold a hearing featuring four law professors on Congress' "subpoena authority and recourse for failure to comply with lawfully issued subpoenas." The hearing follows a back-and-forth between the New York and Massachusetts attorneys general and House Science Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas) over investigations into how much Exxon Mobil Corp. knew about climate change and whether the company suppressed climate change data in order to save its business.

Smith subpoenaed the attorneys general and other groups for communications relating to the state's investigations, the attorneys general refused to comply with the subpoenas, saying they were unconstitutional. Smith said the subpoenas are legal because the states issued subpoenas to Exxon Mobil for its communications with scientists who studied climate change, and some of the requested studies were at least partially funded by the federal government.

On Thursday, a House Science subcommittee will hold a hearing on the EPA's methane regulations. Representatives from the American Petroleum Institute, the Environmental Defense Fund and others will testify.

# Mark Your Calendars (All Eastern Times)

Monday	
SEIA and SEPA hold solar power conference	7 a.m.
SGO holds a forum on energy storage	7:30 a.m.
Brookings holds a discussion on clean power policies	11 a.m.
Atlantic Council holds a discussion on clean energy in U.S. and	12 p.m.
<u>India</u>	
Tuesday  SELA and SERA hold color newer conference	6:30 a.m.
SEIA and SEPA hold solar power conference	7:30 a.m.
SGO holds a forum on energy storage	
CSIS holds a forum on IEA's energy and air pollution report	8:30 a.m. 9 a.m.
BPC holds workshop on power sector trends  Senate Agriculture Committee holds a hearing on H. B. 2647	
Senate Agriculture Committee holds a hearing on H.R. 2647	10 a.m.
Natural Gas Roundtable hosts Matthew Godlewski	12:30 p.m.
House Oversight subcommittee holds a hearing on conservation practices	2 p.m.
RFF holds a webinar on managing methane emissions from gas and oil	2 p.m.
AOPL holds annual business conference	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	•
SEIA and SEPA hold solar power conference	7 a.m.
STEM4US! holds energy, tech and education festival	8 a.m.
AOPL holds annual business conference	8 a.m.
The Hill holds a discussion on natural disaster preparedness	8 a.m.
The CHP Association holds a conference	8 a.m.
House Science Committee holds a hearing on failure to comply with congressional-issued subpoenas	10 a.m.
Senate Energy and Water appropriations subcommittee holds	2:30 p.m.
hearing on nuclear power	
Thursday	
AOPL holds annual business conference	7 a.m.
SEIA and SEPA hold solar power conference	8 a.m.
House Science subcommittee holds a hearing on EPA's methane regulations	9:30 a.m.
WCEE holds a luncheon	12 p.m.
The Wilson Center holds a discussion on the National Climate Assessment	4 p.m.

### Friday

ICF holds a breakfast on energy technology

WRI holds a forum on sustainability

RFF holds a forum on carbon pricing

AOPL holds annual business conference

CSIS holds a book discussion on global sustainable development

8 a.m.

8:30 a.m.

9 a.m.

# **Morning Consult Energy Top Reads**

- 1) The Coming Week: For Congress, It's About Getting Out on Time Jon Reid, Morning Consult
- 2) House Panel Votes to Weaken Obama's Coal Moratorium Timothy Cama, The Hill
- 3) <u>Senate Moves on Water Bill With Flint Aid</u> Melanie Zanona, The Hill
- **4)** <u>U.S.'s Aging Oil-Reserve Infrastructure Needs an Update</u> Amy Harder and Nicole Friedman, The Wall Street Journal
- **5)** Oil-Pipeline Protest Turns Violent in North Dakota The Associated Press
- **6)** <u>Unexplored Territory: CPP and the Power Grid</u> Asha Glover, Morning Consult
- 7) Apache Has High Hopes for New Oil-Field Discovery in Texas Bradley Olson and Erin Ailworth, The Wall Street Journal
- 8) <u>Judge Grants Partial Stop on North Dakota Pipeline Work</u> The Associated Press
- 9) These Stunning New Alaska Maps Could Transform Our Understanding of the Arctic Chris Mooney, The Washington Post
- **10)** End in Sight for U.S. Natural-Gas Glut Spencer Jakab, The Wall Street Journal

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